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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,610	11/26/2003	Ning Hu	01992.006US1	7912

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EXAMINER	
KISHORE, GOLLAMUDI S	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1612	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,610	HU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gollamudi S. Kishore, Ph.D	1612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 April 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23,30,40-42 and 47-71* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The RCE dated 4-28-08 is acknowledged.

Claims included in the prosecution are 1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/13816 in combination with Tardi (US 2003/0124181).

WO 99 discloses a method of loading camptothecins using a pH gradient at a higher temperature, which is same as instant method. The lipids used include DSPC, cholesterol and phosphatidyl glycerols. WO on page 12, line 20 through page 13 line 2 teaches more than 5 mM buffers such as citric acid, ammonium citrate and ammonium sulfate and the temperature conditions. WO discusses alkyl amines and various ammonium salts in the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15. The lipid to camptothecin ratios are from 5:1 to 100:1 (abstract, pages 10-15, 18, Example 2 and claims). Although in examples, WO uses citric acid at 50 mM concentration, in view of WO's teachings that it can be higher than 5 raM, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to vary the molarity up to 60 rnM with the expectation of obtaining

the best possible results. What is lacking in WO is the loading of active agents other than camptothecins, such as claimed anthracyclines.

Tardi while disclosing liposomal compositions containing various active agents teaches that therapeutic agents which can be loaded using pH gradients comprise one more ionizable moiety such that the neutral form of the ionizable moiety allows the drug to cross the liposome membrane and conversion of the moiety to charged form causes the drug to remain encapsulated within the liposomes. Tardi teaches that the ionizable moieties comprise amine, carboxylic acid and hydroxyl groups. Among the active agents taught by Tardi are camptothecins, vinca alkaloids such as vinblastine, and vincristine and anthracycline antibiotics such as doxorubicin (0080-0081). Tardi further teaches dehydrating the liposomes and the use of cryoprotectants (claims).

The use of the liposomes of WO to load active agents such as anthracycline antibiotics would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since Tardi teaches that any ionizable active agent having an amine, carboxyl and hydroxyl functional groups can be loaded using pH gradients and those compounds include camptothecins and anthracyclines.

WO does not teach the use of sphingomyelin in the preparation of the liposomes, since it is a commonly used lipid in the liposome formations, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use this lipid with a reasonable expectation of success.

3. Claims 1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 719 546 in view of WO 99/13816.

EP discloses a method of loading active agents using a pH gradient at a higher

temperature. The method is applicable to several anti-cancer agents such as doxorubicin, vincristine, purine or pyrimidine compounds, antibiotics and others. The lipids used are EPC and cholesterol. Other phospholipids suggested are DSPC, DPPC, DMPC and DAPC. Although in examples, EP teaches the loading of doxorubicin at a higher pH than the interior pH of the liposomes, on col. 20, lines 44-49 it teaches that pH gradients can be established with a second external medium of relatively acidic or basic pH. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to load an active agent at an acidic medium and then relative to the liposome interior and then change the pH of the exterior to basic pH such that the active agent remains entrapped. Although EP does not teach cooling of the solution (step c), such a step would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since WO such a step. Although EP does not disclose the use of phosphatidylglycerol in the liposomes, since it is the commonly used negatively charged lipid to provide negative charge to the liposomes, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include this phospholipid with a reasonable expectation of success. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated further to include this lipid since WO which is discussed below advocates the use of this lipid in similar active agent loading method.

4. Claims 7 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/13816 in combination with Tardi OR over EP 0 719 546 in combination with WO as set forth above, further in view of Webb (5,814,335) of record.

The teachings of WO, Tardi and EP have been discussed above. What is lacking in these references is the use of sphingomyelin as the liposome-forming lipid. The use

of sphingomyelin however, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since Webb teaches that sphingomyelin containing liposomes are stable and have extended circulation time (abstract). Neither EP nor WO teaches the change of the pH of the external medium by using methylamine. The use of methylamine to change the pH of the external medium would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success since Webb teaches the creation of pH gradient using methylamine (columns 7 and 8).

5. Claims 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/13816 in combination with Tardi (US 2003/0124181) OR over EP 0 719 546 in combination with WO as set forth above, further in view of Clerc (5,939,096).

The teachings of Tardi, EP and WO have been discussed above.

Clerc while disclosing a method of drug loading by pH gradient teaches that liposomes can be dehydrated for storage in the presence of cryoprotectant sugars (col. 8, lines 9-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use cryoprotectants and dehydrate liposomes since they can be stored in that state as taught by Clerc.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140

F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and In *re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28, 30-31, 33, 40-42 and 47-71 of copending Application No. 10/723,431. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims in both applications are drawn to the same method of loading active agents into liposomes. In instant claims, the acid used has 'at least about 60 mM strength' whereas the acid recited in the copending application has 'up to about 60 mM' strength. First of all the lower limit in instant claims and the upper limit in the claims of copending application overlap since 'about' provides some flexibility. Furthermore, since the active agent is loaded using a pH gradient, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to vary the amounts of the acid to obtain the best possible results. The amended claims in the copending application are drawn to anthracycline chemotherapeutic agents

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

This rejection is maintained since applicant has neither filed a terminal disclaimer nor provided arguments.

8. Claims 1-23, 30, 40-42 and 47-71 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 30-31 and 35-64 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,335 in combination with Tardi (US 2003/0124181). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both patented claims and instant claims are drawn to the process of loading agents using pH gradients. Instant claims are generic with respect to the active agents loaded whereas the patented claims recite specific camptothecin compound. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to load any active agent using a pH gradient with a reasonable expectation of success since Tardi teaches that any ionizable active agent having an amine, carboxyl and hydroxyl functional groups can be loaded using pH gradients and those compounds include camptothecins, anthracyclines and vinca alkaloids. Patented claims do not recite the concentration of the acid while loading the active agent and instant mM amounts therefore, are deemed to be anticipated by the claims in the patent.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, but are not persuasive, but are deemed to be moot in view of the new rejections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gollamudi S. Kishore, Ph.D whose telephone number is

(571) 272-0598. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM- 4 PM, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Krass Frederick can be reached on (571) 272-0580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gollamudi S Kishore, Ph.D/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1612

GSK